

REMARKS

Claim 5 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, now canceled and, accordingly, represents claim 6 rewritten in independent form. Claim 12 was dependent from claim 6 and, accordingly, its scope is not changed by the present amendments.

Although as noted in applicant's previous response, evidence of record establishes that the art terminology accepted for claim 3a is "shield plates", the language has been amended to revert to the original terminology responsive to paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

The rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-11, as set forth in paragraph 3 of the Office Action, is moot in view of the present cancellation of those claims.

The rejection of claims 6 and 12 for obviousness of Quaggia in view of Atsuhiro is respectfully traversed. The Examiner notes that Quaggia "does not disclose that said metal fitting is constructed of an embedded metal fitting for electrical stress relief and is buried in and fixed to said insulation sleeve." To bridge that gap between applicants' claims and Quaggia, the Examiner additionally relies upon the teachings of Atsuhiro. However, there is at least one other distinction between claim 5 as amended here (previously claim 6) and the structure disclosed by Quaggia. More specifically, amended claim 5 recites "a polymer jacket tube" defined as including "a reception port." While joint 4 of Quaggia might be regarded as providing a reception port for a cable terminal, as asserted by the Examiner, in Quaggia there is no "polymer jacket tube comprising... a reception port for a cable terminal." While Japanese Kokai 02-290120 discloses an epoxy bushing 2 having an "inlet 2a" formed therein, it would have been

difficult for one skilled in the art to envision adaptation of the lower end of insulating body 11 to the structure of the “inlet 2a” of the Japanese reference. It should also be noted that the “inlet 2a” of the Japanese reference is not located in a position lower than clamp 10 on which the Examiner reads applicant’s recitation of a metal fitting.

Turning now to the distinction noted by the Examiner, as the Examiner recognizes, a prima facie case for obviousness combining reference teachings requires some motivation for making the combination. The Examiner in paragraph 6 of the Office Action states that it would have been obvious to use the embedded metal fitting of the Japanese reference on the polymer jacket tube of Quaggia “in order to provide embedded connection.” However, that statement is in no way an explanation of why one skilled in the art would have been motivated to combine the structures in the manner alleged by the Examiner to have been obvious. The Examiner’s statement simply begs the issue. Why would one of ordinary skill in the art have been motivated to provide an embedded connection in Quaggia? Unless the Examiner can point to some motivation for providing the embedded connection of the Japanese reference in Quaggia, he has not stated a prima facie case for obviousness. In paragraph 8 of the Office Action the Examiner also purports to address the issue of motivation. There, the Examiner notes: “In this case both Quaggia and Atsuhiro teach about connections for electrical cables.” True, both the references “teach about connections for electrical cables.” However, the Examiner’s observation, again, does not address the issue. What is it in the teachings “about connections for electrical cables” that would have motivated one skilled in the art to embed the clamp 10 of the Japanese document in the insulating body 11 of Quaggia? The Examiner has pointed to no teaching anywhere

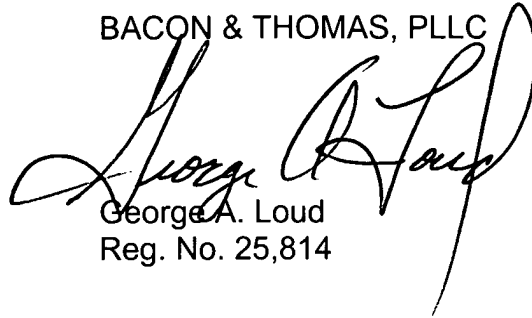
which suggests that one skilled in the art would have been motivated to make such a modification of Quaggia.

In Quaggia, electrical stress release above the flange 19 is provided by "deflecting body 26". The structure of Quaggia has a triple junction which is the contact point of three different elements, i.e. deflecting body 26, insulating sleeve 27 and insulating body 11. The triple junction is an electrical weak point because of the concentration there of the electrical stress. In contrast, the structure defined by amended claim 5 would not have a triple junction and, therefore, would not have such a weak point. In the present invention, electrical stress is relieved above the flange by the embedded metal fitting and, therefore, the present invention offers the advantage of elimination of the triple junction and electrical weak point in Quaggia. Such an advantage would not have been appreciated from a reading of Quaggia and/or the Japanese document and becomes apparent only from a comparison of applicant's disclosure with that of Quaggia.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the two remaining pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Loud", is written over the printed name and registration number.

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